

STORM SAFETY GUIDELINES



FOR RESIDENTS LIVING IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

- **Obtain sandbags ahead of time!** Sandbags and instructional materials for their use are available at most County of Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Stations.
- Fill sandbags one-half full with sand or soil, fold top of sandbag down and rest bag on its folded top. Place in areas where needed. **NEVER UNDERRATE THE POWER OF WATER AND DEBRIS FLOWS!**

Note: sandbags are basically for small flow protection (up to two feet only) and if improperly placed could cause needless damage to your neighbor's property. Therefore, a community effort must be employed!

- Monitor your radio and television news closely for information concerning weather conditions and flooding in your area.
- Have an emergency plan that all family members understand. Know how to contact loved ones if you are not able to get to your home because of flood-related incidents.
- Clear rain gutters and drains ahead of time to help avoid possible roof collapses and other property damage.
- Have enough water and food on hand to supply your family for at least a 72-hour period. Also, remember to include a radio and flashlight with fresh batteries in your emergency kit for use, if necessary.
- Be aware that debris basins can overflow. Be familiar with the area in which you live and have alternate escape routes if asked to evacuate your home.
- Be aware when down canyon of mountainous terrain. It can rain in the mountains but not where you are and you can be subjected to a sudden **(within seconds)** mudflow.

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FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT DURING THE STORM

- **STAY AWAY FROM FLOOD CONTROL CHANNELS**, catch basins, canyons and natural waterways which are susceptible to flooding during periods of heavy rain.
- DO NOT ATTEMPT to cross flooded areas and never enter moving water.
- If flooding traps you in your car, stay with it. If necessary, wait on top of your car for assistance.
- If you become isolated, seek the highest ground available and wait for help.
- Remember to use good common sense and avoid venturing into known problem areas.
- If you see someone who has been swept into moving water DO NOT ENTER THE WATER AND ATTEMPT A RESCUE. Immediately call 911 for trained emergency rescue personnel and if possible throw them some type of floatation device.
- Know how to shut off all utilities if necessary. Remember water and electricity do not mix.

By following these simple safety guidelines, people who live or travel in flood-prone areas of Los Angeles County will be much less likely to become a flood-related statistic!

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department has taken special measures to effectively manage any potential situations which may arise as a result of the coming storm. This along with a heightened level of awareness and preparation on the part of the public will help to prevent unnecessary injury and property loss due to flood caused occurrences. **For additional information, the public can call the Community Relations Office, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (323) 881-2411, or the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Storm Hotline at 1-800-980-4990.**